

# MEXICO MISSOURI MESSAGE.

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NO. 36

## SINGLE TAX AMENDMENT

HOW A SALINE COUNTY MAN SEES THE MATTER.

Fix Our Present System and "Let Well Enough Alone."

I would like to have a little information on the single tax question. Who was it that got the single tax proposition in his head first? Was it a real estate owner or a land owner? What class of people would the single tax benefit, the small real estate owner or the big one? If this single tax is adopted will it be more equitable to all classes of people?

I for one fail to see much the matter with our present form of taxation, as it doesn't seem to be much of a burden on any class of property. I own 100 acres of just good, average farm land situated in the extreme southern part of Saline county, Mo., which is not the best agricultural land in Saline county, but is worth anywhere from \$65 to \$80 per acre. My tax was a little less than \$25 for 1911 on the land, which is a great deal more than it was just a few years back. But, at the same time, I don't believe the raise is any more in my tax than our growing needs for money are. And we may expect every few years to have our tax a little higher and I think this single tax question ought to be threshed out thoroughly and not acted on until its advocates can show beyond any question that if adopted it will be just and equitable to all classes of people and property. Every one should be willing to pay his just part of tax and if not willing, should have the cinches drawn up so tight that he could not possibly buck out of the saddle.

If we have to tax our widows and orphans and all of our poor small farmers and laborers who are trying to pay for a mortgaged home just to coupon clippers from lying and perjury themselves, to keep from paying a just and equitable tax, I say let them go to the penitentiary where they so richly deserve to go. Brother farmers, I don't think you need take the single tax proposition very seriously, but of course it is always best to keep your fences all stretched up tight for some of the human race are not unlike the breachy stock, always wanting to get in just a little greener pasture and are not satisfied without taking the whole herd with them. I believe every person over the age of 21 years and on the outside of the asylum walls knows that when you exempt all the property which the single tax amendment does that it will make all real estate, whether it consists of your farm lands or other real estate, tax twice as high as it is now. I think any person who owns real estate and is advocating the single tax has a wheel loose in his head, or is in the employ of the coupon clippers.

F. M. York, Blue Lick, Saline county, Mo.

### Message Subscribers.

John Derge renews for the Message. Ditto, J. B. Slavens, Judge S. C. Groves, W. A. Davis, R. T. Steele, R. McMahan, A. B. Smith and E. J. Winter. J. E. Lowry and Mrs. Fannie Powell are new subscribers.

Wm. Frazier is home from a visit in Ohio.

Miss Lucile Howell is visiting relatives at Hardin, Mont.

## SOME INTERVIEWS.

Ever Eat Any Kohl-rabi?—Judge Williams' "Onions"—That County Election Printing.

Billie Blythe: I live out beyond Hurdle school house. It's been a little too dry for the corn in my section, but everything's all right yet. I'm getting ready to plant cucumbers and a big field of turnips.

Police Judge J. T. Williams, last Sunday: How would you like to have my job tomorrow morning? They have 18 "niggers" in the lock-up for me to try for playing craps, and I think everyone of them has been eating onions.

Martin Donnelly: I brought in a wagon load of new wheat Monday and gave it away—at 88 cents a bushel. But it was not good quality and the yield was only about 8 bushels to the acre. I can sell some, however, and yet have enough left for my bread for a year.

J. W. Rouse: I was the chap who built that summer house up in the tree for Col. W. D. Fonville. The Colonel says he built it mostly for a play-place for the children, but I venture the guess he'll be caught up there as often as anybody. I see the Kansas City Daily Star told about the Colonel's "tree-house" a few days ago.

R. T. Steele: For a number of years I have lived at Columbia, but my children were all born and reared in Audrain—six in number—and each is a graduate of the Missouri University. I built the first brick residence ever put up in Vandalia. For a number of years I resided on a farm midway between Laddonia and Wellsville. I read the Message every week with great interest. I have to laugh at times at the arguments some of you correspondents put up against the Single Tax. Not telling you how I stand, I think many misunderstand this question and I am sure much of the argument I have seen used is going to make for the proposition instead of against it. Watch this point.

E. J. Winter: Did I ever raise any kahl-rabi? Well, yes. Not many people know anything about it. (It's a hard to spell, isn't it?) It is a fine cross between a turnip and cabbage and is better on the table than either the turnip or cabbage. You ought to try growing it. You won't have to fight the worms away from it, either, like you do in raising cabbage.

L. E. Worner: I am "backing" again. Wife and baby gone on another visit to relatives up in the western part of the State. Meanwhile I keep on talking Woodcraft to the boys. I visit several camps this week, meeting the neighbors of Thompson camp Wednesday night.

A Taxpayer: Say, that Message editorial last week, "An Extravagant Deal," was a stunner. Why didn't you make that exposure before this? But the taxpayers are with you, you bet. It does appear that there is graft in this county election printing matter.

Hon. C. P. Davault, of Hamilton, Ill., editor of American Bee Journal and president of the Illinois Beekeepers Association, will attend the State Beekeepers meeting in Mexico August 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Smith and two children, Miss Annette and Bradford Wright, of Booneville, arrived in this city on a visit to relatives first of the week. Mr. Smith has returned home but Mrs. Smith and children will remain for a couple of weeks.

## IT PUZZLES THE DOCTORS

THE CASE OF MISS BESSIE STEWART, NEAR WELLSVILLE.

Reads With Her Eyes Shut—Writes Letter From Africa.

A local reporter for the metropolitan press "let the cat out of the bag" last week when he published that story concerning Miss Bessie Stewart, 20 years old, daughter of C. T. Stewart, a highly respected farmer living five miles south of Wellsville, who has been suffering with a form of hysteria, or trance of late months. The story was an old one and was known to all the Wellsville public, but last week it came to the surface at Mexico. It was published without consulting the wishes of the relatives of the unfortunate girl, and that part of it was unfortunate.

Dr. Theo. H. Winans of this city knew of the case last August, nearly a year ago, and was called to treat Miss Stewart, but has not seen her since the 5th of September last. He read an article later describing Miss Stewart's case before the State meeting of Homeopaths at Kansas City and soon the said article is to appear in the Medical Century of New York.

Miss Stewart is a high school graduate, and also a graduate of the Kirksville Normal, and when her affliction began was a teacher in Texas. It is thought her trouble was brought on by overwork.

She has a number of different personalities when in a trance and can read books or papers she has never seen before, in the dark or with her eyes closed.

Likewise she has told of deaths that occurred in distant cities before telegram announcing them arrived in Wellsville.

The following data concerning the case was taken from a record kept by Dr. Winans during his attendance upon Miss Stewart.

The first news he had of Miss Stewart was August 7, 1911, when her father came to him and told of her reading with her eyes shut, also of playing on the piano very difficult musical selections as well as of dancing and knowing of persons passing their home without opening her eyes.

At times Miss Stewart impersonates a man. She will take long strides when she walks, light a pipe and smoke it and in her conversation use expressions peculiar to masculine vocabularies.

Then, again, she will be a girl, dancing, posing and reciting with the utmost grace and finish.

At one time she wrote a letter dated from Albanis, Africa, telling how she was held captive by monkeys and likening them to characters in Jack London's "Before Adam."

She wrote a letter to a mascot friend and replied to the epistle as a man would. She draws pictures and writes humorous lines underneath them.

To The Democratic Voters of Eastern District.

A report is being circulated that I am an advocate of the Single Tax. This is a serious misrepresentation as I am bitterly opposed to this proposed amendment and am chairman of an Anti-Single Tax organization in Beagles precinct. I believe this is a campaign scheme and hope my friends will not believe this false report.

J. W. Beagles.

## PRAIRIE LEA.

Some Hot Weather Items and "A Calm, Cool Collected Convention."

The big harvest is over; threshing is on and J. Hord Davis is glad of it.

The lemonade picnic at Baenelors Hall last Wednesday evening was greatly enjoyed by all present and talked about by all the absent ones.

Tom Shire is about to patent an automatic sprinkler to be attached to an aeroplane in order to water the corn crop and watermelon patch, and also to relieve the frogs. Mr. Shire's frogs are suffering from the dry spell.

Jake Larue, the ice cream king, formerly of Prairie Lea, has departed for the mighty City of Worcester. Another good man gone from a good neighborhood. We mourn his departure, but a good man has taken his old stand, so "all's well that ends well."

The Prairie Lea ball team has been doing some fine work of late. We hope they will continue to prosper. Lack of space prevents further discussion.

J. Hord Davis has the finest piece of sod corn in the county.

The Wilmshott Bros. of Bachelors Hall have a fine patent automatic lawn mower which is the real thing. A big lop eared mule does the work and does it to a finish.

The Iron Bros. are about to complete a new monabina motor-bike which they claim will tear up the roads. The least possible speed, they claim, will be fifty miles per hour.

Dick Doerge heard a terrific bombardment in his corn field the other night and thought the war had broke out again. Upon further investigation he found it was only his early corn shooting.

The Ice-cream Convention met at Bachelors Hall Saturday night to organize for the purpose of making war on the hot weather. The chosen few who are not already members are cordially invited to join. They will manufacture ice cooled electric fans, jack frost cakes, ice-cream pudding and coola confectionary of all kinds. Jake Larue, the ice cream king, will be chief cook and bottle washer at a high salary. Your patronage solicited, but no warm members will be admitted as this is strictly a calm, cool collected convention.

### Mr. French's Funeral.

The funeral of W. H. French, whose death we reported last week, was held at the Christian church Friday morning, Rev. W. A. Shullenberger officiating.

The pallbearers were deceased's four grandsons, French, Roy, Hardin and Curtis Field, and Lewis Moore and W. W. Harper. The honorary pallbearers were Dr. R. W. Bourne, Jack Atelison, H. I. Talbott, Chas. Bast, W. W. Fry, J. V. Fry, Sam Locke and W. J. Botts.

Mr. French was one of the wealthiest men in Audrain county. He was a brother-in-law of Samuel P. Harrison, who resides near Williamsburg, in Callaway county. He was married three times. His first wife was Miss Virginia Harrison, an aunt of Crockett Harrison, now of Fulton, formerly of Thompson, this county. His third wife and two children survive. He was one of the last survivors of Doniphan's march to Old Mexico.

A singular coincidence in connection with Mr. French's death is the fact that Jacob Maddox, who died at his home east of Mexico, a couple of weeks since, was best man for Mr. French when he was married the first time.

## 18 NEGROES ARRESTED

CLARENCE POWELL, A RUN-AWAY, HAS BEEN HEARD FROM.

Auto Runs Into a Buggy—Boy Scouts at Benton City.

J. K. Pitts, a single man, living near the Mexico Power House and having employment at the Shoe Factory, in making preparations for his supper Wednesday evening of last week was badly burned about both his arms—burned to his shoulders—when his gasoline stove got out of order and the gasoline caught fire. In trying to put the fire out he received his injuries. He was taken to a hospital at Quincy, Ill.

A Boy Scout organization has been formed at Benton City.

Eighteen negroes Wednesday evening of last week congregated around Sue Hutcherson's restaurant and were drinking beer. All got mixed in a big fight. Police Judge Williams assessed fines on a number of the bunch ranging in sums from \$12.50 to \$32.50.

Clarence Powell, whom the Message mentioned last week as having disappeared from his home in this city on June 24 and had not been heard from, has written to his relatives here that he was at Pine Bluff, Ark., but expected to leave at once for New York City. When he left Mexico he footed it to Rush Hill where he took the cars. Clarence is a good boy and he'll make it thru the world all right.

Miss Eva Hyde, of Fulton, who is to leave in September for Brazil to engage in missionary work, delivered an address at the Mexico Methodist church last Thursday night. Miss Hyde was the guest of Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Reed while here.

Rev. C. C. Brown, of near Anadarko, Pike county, is arranging to move to Mexico to educate his four children, two sons and two daughters. Mr. Brown will occupy the W. H. Morris residence, on North Jefferson street.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Juells and small child and their daughter, Miss Fern Juells, who live southwest of Mexico, were driving down the road with their buggy last Friday evening when two men in an auto passed them, running their machine against the front wheel of the buggy and turning the buggy over into a ditch. The occupants escaped with but small hurts and the autoists ran on without being identified.

Mrs. J. E. Tilger's grocery store, in the northwest part of town, was badly damaged by fire early last Saturday morning. It is supposed that a match gnawed by a mouse started the fire. The damage to building and stock was covered by insurance.

Mrs. J. C. McGee, who was so seriously injured recently by the cars near the Ice Plant, is slowly improving.

Here is a late case filed in the Circuit Court, a suit to break a will, D. W. Hobart et al against Mary E. Kuntz et al. D. W. Hobart alleges that his father, Isaac Hobart, agreed to give him a certain piece of land but died before he could carry out the promise.

## MR. BALL DEAD.

One of the County's Early Settlers Passes Away.

John Nelson Ball, born June 4, 1833, in Breckenridge, Ky., died last Thursday afternoon at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. J. Woods, on East Liberty street, this city. Mr. Ball had been in declining health for some time. The body was taken to Santa Fe for burial, funeral and interment at that place Friday afternoon.

Mr. Ball came to Missouri just a half century ago. For some time he lived on a farm on Lick Creek, northwest of Laddonia, farm now owned by W. W. Braden. For many years afterward he resided in the neighborhood of Santa Fe.

Besides Mrs. Woods, referred to above, deceased is survived by the following children: Mrs. B. F. Miller, of Columbia; X. P. Ball, of Mexico; Mrs. J. E. Betz, of near Fulton; Mrs. E. R. Snook and S. B. Ball, of Bakersfield, Cal.; and J. Frank Ball, of Oakland, Cal. A sister of Mr. Ball, Mrs. Barbara Coil, who is the mother of Dr. Paul E. Coil of Mexico, resides at Perry. A brother also survives him who lives in Kentucky.

Mr. Ball was a man of noble mind and heart and a fine citizen. The early settlers of the county who survive him will be pained to hear of his death.

### POWELL FORD.

A nice rain Monday morning. Last Thursday was a very busy day in this vicinity. Some were cutting oats, some in the hay, others plowing corn, and some thrashing. Many talk of hands being scarce. We think when they try to have so many kinds of work going on at once hands always will be scarce.

Misses Edna and Anna McMurry entertained Misses Hilda Brand and Bessie McPheters, of Mexico, a few days last week.

Euell Pasley, Monday morning, had the misfortune of a horse biting his finger severely while trying to put a bridle on the animal.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mason and family and Miss Olivia Carter took Sunday dinner with Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Carter of Duly.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Carter spent Saturday night and Sunday in Mexico with Mrs. Carter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gill.

Misses Mary and Laura Carter visited in Kansas City for several days. Miss Frances Carter left for Portland last week. Miss Mary Carter accompanied her to Kansas City, from which place she will make the trip with her sister Frances. They will visit in California and several other states this summer and Miss Frances will take charge of her school in Washington. Miss Mary will come back to Missouri and be at home this winter.

Geo. Lewis was the first to thrash in this vicinity. Quality good both of wheat and oats.

We have not seen a complete announcement of the Mexico Chautauqua yet. What we have seen of the program we think is certainly will be fine. "Each and every day a big day," so they say. A week at the Chautauqua will put new zest into your life. It is a tonic one needs. Get the Chautauqua spirit.

Mr. and Mrs. Milford Berry entertained Mr. and Mrs. Robert Powell and grandson, Geo. Spotswood, of Duly, last Sunday.

Mrs. Nancy L. Newkirk, mother of W. E. Newkirk of this city, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Dicky Doty, at Sidney, Iowa. Mrs. Doty is 91 years old. Mrs. Newkirk is 69 years old.

A new Catholic church is to be built at Vandalia.

## SUES FOR \$25,000.00

MRS. CRABTREE WANTS THIS SUM FOR DEATH OF HER HUSBAND.

Killed in This County, Suit Brought in St. Louis.

The Chicago & Alton Railroad Company was sued for \$25,000 for the death of Norman J. Crabtree, a fireman on a passenger train, in the United States District Court yesterday. The suit was brought by Vena Boirum, his widow. She states in her petition that Crabtree was a fireman on a passenger train, December 27, 1910, when it ran into the rear end of a freight train between Farber and Vandalia, Mo., and that he was killed in the collision.

The above paragraph is quoted from the St. Louis Republic of last Saturday. Regarding the railroad accident in which Crabtree was killed the Message of Dec. 29, 1910, had the following account—in which accident you will see that two other men were killed:

Last Tuesday morning, near three o'clock, three employees on the C. & A., Harry Flora, freight brakeman, Bond Davis, passenger engineer, and N. J. Crabtree, passenger fireman, were killed near Farber when the fast mail train from Chicago ran into the rear end of a freight train. No one else on either train was injured.

The parents of the young man, Harry Flora, formerly lived in Mexico, and Harry was a pupil here in the North Side School. Bond Davis was buried beneath the wreck of the engine and caboose. Crabtree lived some hours after the collision.

A dispatch sent out from Vandalia was in these words:

"Just who is responsible for the wreck probably never will be known. The freight train stopped on the main track at Farber while some stock cars were to be picked up from a sidetrack. The flagman of the freight train was sent back to flag the passenger train. Either he went to sleep on the track or the engineer of the passenger train disregarded his signals and ran him down. As both the flagman and the engineer, as well as the fireman of the passenger train, the only men who could tell, were killed, it is impossible to get at the facts. Railroad officials believe, however, the flagman went to sleep on the track."

Coroner P. E. Coil of Mexico held an inquest with the following jury: W. O. Hostetter, Henry Deffing, C. W. Tanner, W. A. Spence, D. T. Weakley, and G. A. Lee. Their verdict was that M. J. Crabtree, Bond Davis and Harry Flora came to their death "in a rear-end collision between extra 309 west and No. 9, due to the negligence of Russell Thomelson, operator at Vandalia, Mo., and Harry Flora, flagman on extra 309."

The funeral of Harry Flora was held at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Priscilla Hazzard, in Mexico.

Mrs. Lucy Davis, of near Martinsburg, attended the funeral of W. H. French here last week.

### Mexico Savings Bank

Capital Stock, \$150,000.00

43rd Year in Business.

W. W. FRY, President.

SAM LOCKE, Cashier.